

In the fall of 1993, the Red Cliff tribe joined the partnership. Havenick and tribal representatives from LCO and Red Cliff soon thereafter met with Gov. Thompson. They came away from the meeting believing that the Governor would view more favorably an effort by three tribes, rather than two, seeking to take land into trust. Havenick and Cadotte then approached several tribes about becoming the third tribal partner. After another set of unsuccessful discussions with the St. Croix tribe, they reached agreement in September 1993 with the Mole Lake Band of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. As discussed previously, all three of these tribes were among the poorest tribes in Wisconsin.

The three tribes and the dog track partners (headed by Havenick) named their partnership the Four Feathers Casino Joint Venture (“Four Feathers”). On the Havenick side, Galaxy Gaming and Racing Limited Partnership (“Galaxy Gaming”) – the Hecht family’s representative entity in the Four Feathers Partnership – was created to manage and jointly operate the casino and racing facility pursuant to a joint operating agreement.

On Oct. 12, 1993, the three tribes submitted to the Minneapolis Area Office (MAO) of DOI’s Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) an application seeking to take portions of the Hudson dog track land into trust, for purposes of operating a casino at the site through Four Feathers. The plan called for Croixland, the owner of the dog track, to sell the land under the track itself (about 55 acres) to the three applicant tribes for \$1. Upon approval, that land would then be placed in trust by the federal government for the benefit of the tribes. The facilities (including the buildings and other fixed assets and improvements on that land) would be owned by economic development corporations (EDCs) established by each of the three tribes. A majority of the dog track’s \$39 million mortgage would be transferred from the land to the facilities (because land to